



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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8 FEBRUARY 1966

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1. North Vietnam

The list of North Vietnamese diplomats who have returned to Hanoi is lengthening. Those known to have returned are Hanoi's representatives to France, Poland, Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, and India. In addition, the ambassadors to Moscow, Peking, and Havana may also be home.

Hanoi is probably conducting a general foreign policy review. Such reviews are known to have taken place at about this time of year in 1962 and 1964. These earlier meetings were not followed by any major alterations in foreign policy.

2. Uganda

The Ugandan parliament has forced the suspension of Prime Minister Obote's leading supporter, Colonel Idi Amin, from his post as army chief of staff. Amin is under investigation for involvement in the embezzlement of Congolese rebel gold. This is a severe setback for the radical Obote and drastically reduces his chances for re-election later this year.

The mounting conflict between moderates and leftists sparked reports yesterday that a coup [redacted] was imminent. The embassy reported this morning that the Kampala area was calm, but that political leaders were operating on an "anything can happen" basis.

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3. Zambia

US Embassy officers who visited the Zambian copper belt last week found that the situation among the foreign miners had deteriorated considerably since mid-December. Many technicians, especially at the middle and upper levels, are planning to leave as soon as possible, and the supply of recruits from South Africa has dried up. Pressures to leave will increase sharply when the complete economic rupture with Rhodesia takes place.

4. Nigeria

The new Ironsi regime now apparently plans a general roundup of the younger army officers who were involved in last month's coup. A British official working with the Nigerian police says that some of these people have already been arrested, and a number of others are slated to be picked up soon.

[redacted] Ironsi has been hard put to decide how to treat these officers. They are considered to be heroes by much of the public and also by significant elements in the army. The decision to "close in" probably means that Ironsi senses an overriding need to restore army discipline.

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5. India

Antigovernment rioting in Kerala is beginning to subside. The rice cut has been partially restored and emergency rice supplies are arriving from other parts of the country. Leftist opposition elements in Kerala will now be looking for new ways to discredit New Delhi's administration of their area.

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6. Belgium

Foreign Minister Spaak told Ambassador Knight yesterday that Belgium is in a state of anarchy with everybody wanting to give orders and no one willing to obey. Spaak spoke highly of the King's efforts over the weekend to head off a crisis but he believes the present truce constitutes only a reprieve for the Harmel government.

Spaak suggested that Achille Van Acker might well be the man to form a new government. Van Acker, a 68-year-old Socialist, served as prime minister in the 1950s.

7. Cambodia

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[REDACTED] Last month Sihanouk rejected Castro's offer to send Cuban troops to Cambodia.

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Castro apparently sees this gesture as a way to brighten his image as a leading revolutionary without running major risks. Sihanouk, for his part, probably has no great need for more small arms, but may have thought it impolitic to turn Castro down again.

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